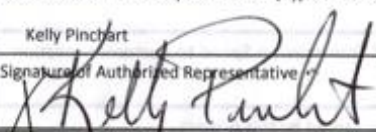


# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

### SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
RECEIVED: 03/16/2022 2:25:58 PM

Primary Applicant (Name and Address): <b>Village of Casco</b> <b>311 Church Ave.</b> <b>Casco, Wisconsin 54205</b>		Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b>
		Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>
		Date: December 1, 2021
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print) Kelly Pinchart	Title Village President	Phone (920) 837 2143
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date March 16, 2022.	

Primary Applicant Name <b>Village of Casco</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$265,265
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39 1528048</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$432,802
Contact Name and Title Kelly Pinchart	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$698,067
Telephone Number (920) 837 2143	Project Name <b>Village of Casco FTTP Project</b>
E-mail Address(es) Email: clerk@cascowi.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTP XGS-GPON</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) <b>Last-mile fiber-to-the-premise. ("FTTP")</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations  <b>Brown County C-LEC, LLC, d/b/a Nsight Telservices, 450 Security Blvd, Green Bay, WI 54313. FEIN: 39-1962315</b>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>Village of Casco requests an FY2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant to partner with Nsight Telservices and construct a scalable FTTP project deployment passing 207 households and 25 business in the Village of Casco, Kewaunee County. The new network will deliver download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps per subscriber.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>1Gbps</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>100Mbps</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>250Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>20Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Kewaunee County</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Village of Casco</b>
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve <b>Landline: CenturyLink.</b> <b>Fixed Wireless: Door County Broadband, Mercury, AT&amp;T.</b>	

Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no) <b>No</b>	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) <b>No</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). <b>25</b>	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). <b>207</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>0</b>	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? <b>0</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2012? (yes/no) <b>Yes</b>	

PAGE 4: The fourth pages of the application should be the [Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement](#). Use the spreadsheet available on the Broadband Expansion Grants webpage. Save it as a PDF or scan it to add it to your application as page four. In addition to including it in the PDF application, you must also upload it separately to ERF in Excel format – see below.

Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Village of Casco	Village of Casco FTTH Project.

### Budget

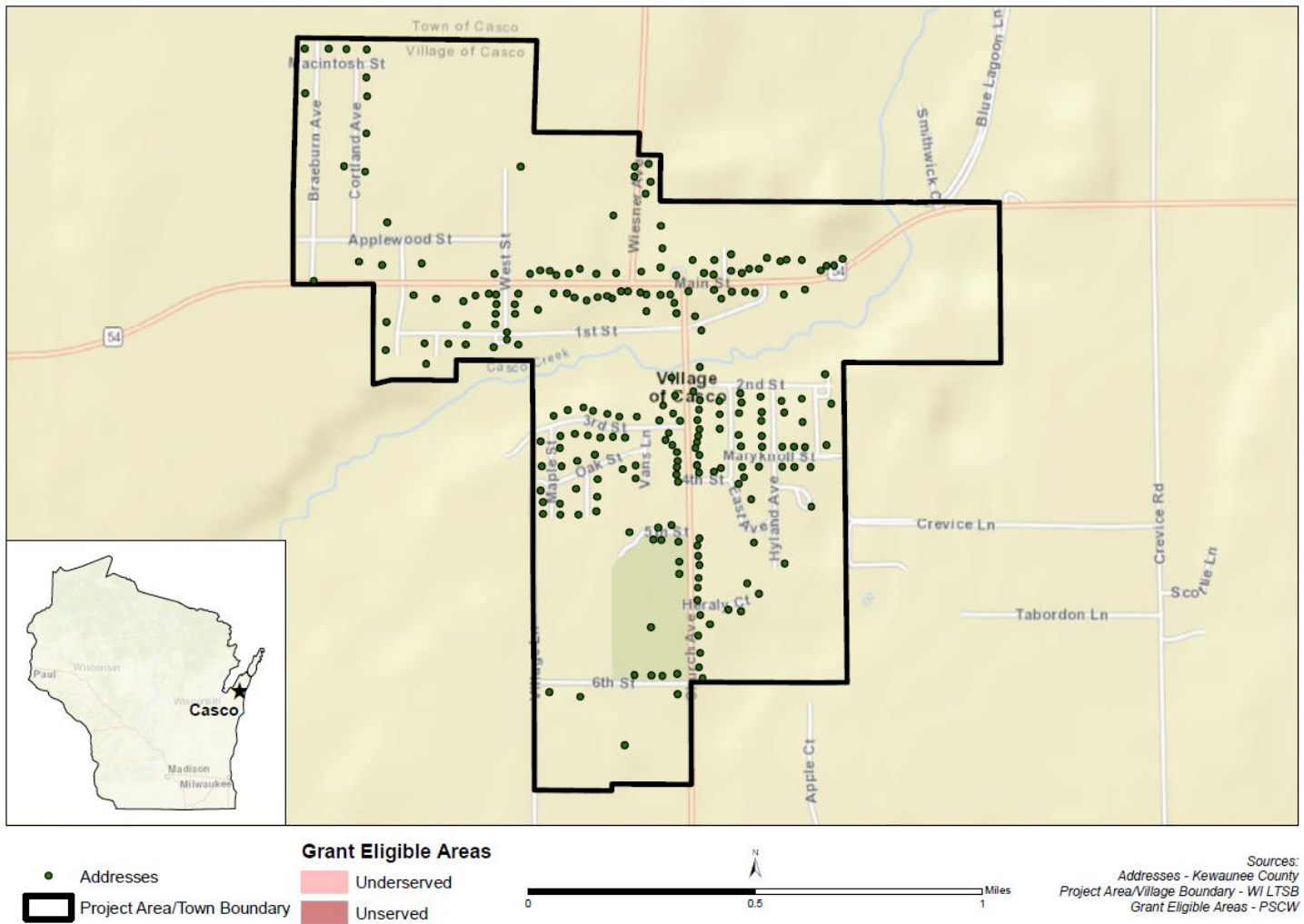
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 232,750.00	\$ 379,750.00	\$ 612,500.00
2	Equipment	\$ 32,515.46	\$ 53,051.54	\$ 85,567.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)			\$ -
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 265,265.46	\$ 432,801.54	\$ 698,067.00
		62.0% match requested		

### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Village of Casco	Applicant	Cash	\$ 125,000.00
2	Brown County CLEC, LLC (Nsight)	Partner	Cash	\$ 307,801.54
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 432,801.54

Map. A clear static map(s) of the project boundaries and locations of the project area and description or key as needed.

## Nsight - Village of Casco FTTP: FY2022



Note: Nsight TelserVICES FTTP project will serve the entire Village of Casco community. Therefore, the project boundaries are same as the Village boundaries.

I. Applicant identification and contact information (3.2.1)

- A. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

**Village of Casco**  
**311 Church Ave,**  
**Casco, WI 54205**  
**Kelly Pinchart, President**  
**Phone: (920) 837 2143**  
**Email: [clerk@cascowi.com](mailto:clerk@cascowi.com)**  
**Tammy Skarban, Clerk/Treasurer**  
**Phone: (920) 837 2220**  
**Email: [clerk@cascowi.com](mailto:clerk@cascowi.com)**

- B. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

**This application proposes a public-private partnership between applicant Village of Casco and Brown County CLEC, LLC. (d/b/a: Nsight Telservices).**  
**Brown County C-LEC, LLC, (d/b/a Nsight Telservices).**  
**450 Security Blvd**  
**Green Bay, WI 54313**  
**Brighid Riordan, CEO**  
**Email: [Brighid.Riordan@nsight.com](mailto:Brighid.Riordan@nsight.com)**  
**Phone: 920-617-7056**  
**Michael O'Malley, Sr. Director Internal Controls & Operations.**  
**Email: [michael.omalley@nsight.com](mailto:michael.omalley@nsight.com)**  
**Phone: 920-617-7349**

- C. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

**Applicant, Village of Casco, is incorporated as a Village in the State of Wisconsin and has established a partnership with telecommunications utility, Nsight Telservices. See Exhibit 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Casco and Nsighttel Wireless, LLC. (d/b/a Cellcom) See also, Exhibit 2. Village of Casco Resolution 3-2021.**

**Brown County CLEC, LLC. (DBA: Nsight Telservices) ("Nsight") is registered with the State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission as a Competitive Local Exchange (CLEC), carrier number 775. Nsight Telservices operates four Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (DBA: Nsight Tel.) in various telephone exchanges throughout Northeast Wisconsin. Each ILEC is certified to provide telecommunications service in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 196.50(2)(b) of the**

**Wisconsin State Statute. As a leading communications provider in the state of Wisconsin, Nsight has a proven track record of operating, maintaining and continually investing in its network. Key organizational capabilities and network highlights include approximately 3,924 route miles of fiber-based network.**

**II. Description of the project (3.2.2)**

- A. A static map and description of the area of the state that will be affected by the proposed project. A map of the project area of the state that will be affected by the proposed project is shown on page 5 above.**

**This is a fiber-to-the-premise (“FTTP”) proposed project in the Village of Casco, Wisconsin (“Village”). The project area includes 25 businesses and 207 households. Many of the locations cannot get reliable broadband service using CenturyLink end-of-life copper loops. Partners, Village of Casco and Nsight, anticipate that Nsight fiber will pass all locations in the Village within 24 months of project completion and that at least 75 of these locations will be connected to broadband service as part of this project. Each location will be offered XGS-PON service as described below. If this application is approved, these subscribers will have access to download/upload broadband speeds much higher than the maximum available speeds obtainable in the community today. The new network will deliver download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps. Nsight’s FTTP project will serve the entire Village community. Therefore, the project boundaries are same as the Village boundaries.**

**URL link to zipped filed geodatabase:**

**<https://arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=381e5b2271114971aec5506a6fb2f7a0>**

- B. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.**

**The Village of Casco is a rural community located in Kewaunee County which has insufficient access to Broadband Internet services. Contrary to what the Wisconsin Broadband Maps show, the Village is underserved. Fixed wireless broadband service is unreliable at most locations in the village because of the very high density of trees. Therefore, the project area is served by fewer than 2 broadband service providers providing broadband service with a speed of 25 Mbps for download speed and 3Mbps for upload speed. Regarding the landline provider, speeds advertised by CenturyLink are not available to many locations. In particular, upload speeds are less than 3Mbps throughout one-third of the community.**



- C. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.
- Potential and expected number of households served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.  
**207 households.**
  - Potential and expected number of businesses served, including number of unserved and underserved locations.  
**25 businesses.**
  - Estimated download and upload speed of the broadband service packages available for purchase.  
**The new network will deliver download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps.**

**Residential and Business Service Plans:**

**Nsight will offer customers similar pricing as in its other fiber markets. Prices are subject to change but have remained very consistent while speeds have increased for the last decade.**

**Standard Internet Packages**

**Current monthly internet pricing is as follows.**

**Residential:**

- **250/20 Mbps: \$39.95/month initial 12 months; \$49.95 thereafter**
- **500/50 Mbps: \$59.95/month initial 12 months; \$69.95 thereafter**
- **1000/100 Mbps: \$99.95/month initial 12 months; \$109.95 thereafter**

**Note: An additional \$5.95/month gateway fee is also charged. Standard installation cost is \$19.95 with a 12-month contract; \$110.00 without a contract.**

**Business:**

- **250/20 Mbps: \$54.95/month initial 12 months; \$64.95 thereafter**
- **500/50 Mbps: \$104.95/month initial 12 months; \$114.95 thereafter**
- **1000/100 Mbps: \$199.95/month initial 12 months; \$209.95 thereafter**

**Note: An additional \$7.95/month gateway fee is also charged. Standard installation cost is \$19.95 with a 12-month contract; \$110.00 without a contract.**

- D. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.
- The proposed project will be targeting the “last mile” portion of the broadband infrastructure. Nsight will build fiber along each street with drops to each household throughout the project area in the Village as shown in the project area map above. The fiber will be connected to Nsight’s existing fiber network running through the Village. In addition, the budget includes cost of fiber “drops” from the street into the first 75 locations that sign up for broadband internet service.**



- E. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate. **The Village of Casco is partnering with Nsight and choosing to invest in fiber optic infrastructure as the technology for the project. In addition, the two partners propose to invest in a physical fiber broadband network that provides last mile connections.**

**Nsight plans to deploy XGS-PON technology which utilizes fiber to the premise (FTTP) and supports up to 10 Gbps speeds on a single optical distribution network (ODN) between the distribution electronics known as the optical line terminal (OLT) and the customer premise equipment known as the optical network unit (ONU). This is a shared resource with all subscribers in the ODN. Nsight will deploy scalable optical multiplexing between 64 to 128 subscribers per ODN and will monitor utilization to add capacity as needed. The technical implementation supports typical service speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber.**

**Nsight has backhaul network within the targeted footprint with 10 Gbps capacity and electronics that support scaling to 100 Gbps. The system would be served by a fiber ring linking Casco with Green Bay and with transport out to the Internet.**

**The fiber in the project area will be buried except where utility poles are available for an aerial deployment. When the project is completed, the design and installation will conform to all applicable federal, state, and local requirements. Nsight will use standard engineering practice, the installed infrastructure will provide the service levels and speeds stated in this application. The project will provide service to the underserved households and businesses. It is designed to reliably exceed a symmetrical speed of 100 Mbps download and upload.**

- F. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

**The FY2022 Village of Casco FTTP project construction timeline will begin with grant approval and acceptance by the applicant.**

- i. Months 1-3: Engineering and environmental work.**
- ii. Month 4-8: Permitting and material order.**
- iii. Months 9-11: Beginning of Construction and testing.**
- iv. Month 12-24: Completion of Construction, splicing & turn-up of customers.**

III. Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar) 3.2.3

- A. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures.

**Price list for the Casco FTTP Project:**

	A	B	C
1	Description	Category	Price
2	Construction Labor	Contractual Fees	\$560,000
3	Materials for OSP	Equipment	\$40,240
4	Electronics	Equipment	\$12,000
5	Contracted Drops for 75 locations at \$700 each	Contractual Fees	\$52,500
6	Customer Premise Equipment for 75 locations at \$444.36 each	Equipment	\$33,327
7	Total		\$698,067

**Broadband facilities will be owned by the applicant during construction phase and then transferred to Nsight after construction is completed. If awarded a grant, the Village will pay all fiber project vendor and contractor invoices submitted to the Village for this purpose. Should the Village take possession or ownership of any assets or components of the project, the Village agrees to sell those assets to Nsight in the aggregate for \$1.00. If necessary, the Village and Nsight/Cellcom will sign an Asset Purchase Agreement transferring any assets or components of the project to Nsight/Cellcom upon project completion. See Exhibit 1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Casco and Nsighttel Wireless, LLC. (d/b/a Cellcom).**

- B. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

**Partners Village of Casco and Nsight confirm that the grant will not subsidize Village expenses or the monthly bills of existing customers. As shown in the itemized statement of funding request, the proposed project will not subsidize the operating costs or monthly bills of customers of the partner providers. It is understood that for the purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the recurring service charges, operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.**

- C. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:  
**Partners also confirm that grant funds will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. All funds being requested will be used exclusively for project planning, construction permitting, construction of facilities, purchase of**

equipment, and installation and testing of equipment. Grant funds will not be utilized for any reason other than the above mentioned.

IV. Priority factors supporting the application (3.2.4)

A. **Matching funds.** A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

- If available, provide documentation to support an offer of matching funds (minutes of a town board meeting, a letter from a prospective customer or local government official, etc.).
- Matching funds contributions must be a firm commitment of funding to the project. Contributions that vary based on the amount of actual sales, customer contributions, or other criteria will not be given weight.

**This application includes matching funds from two different sources including the Village and Nsight. The total amount of these public/private matching funds is \$432,802 or 62% of the total project cost.**

Since its founding as Pulaski Merchants and Farmers Telephone company, Nsight has been rooted in rural service. As CEO Brighid Riordan states in the Nsight Letter of Support, it is both our pleasure and our mission to serve the communities in Rural Wisconsin. The company understands that individuals who choose the quality of life that is offered by small, close-knit communities still want access to the same technical amenities found in metropolitan areas. Therefore, Nsight supports the Village of Casco FY2022 grant application and pledges \$307,802 in financial support for the proposed project contingent on the grant award and completion of the last-mile fiber build. See Exhibit 10.

Village of Casco is pledging \$125,000 of the total project cost. The attached Memorandum of Understanding between partners Village of Casco and Nsight memorializes the amount pledged by the Village. Resolution 3-2021 also memorializes the pledge amount. See exhibits 1 & 2. Village Board members pledged these funds because they believe that if approved, this FTTP network will provide a reliable internet service in the Village thereby promoting job growth, expanding the property tax base, and promoting economic development.

B. **Public-private partnerships.** If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.

**This application includes a public-private partnership between applicant Village of Casco and telecommunications provider Nsight Telservices. The public-private partnership is memorialized in a memorandum of understanding signed by both parties on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The two partners**

agreed that the Village will be the applicant and will handle interim reporting and requests for reimbursement with the PSCW. The village will transfer ownership of any assets purchased during construction to Nsight after project completion. Nsight will design, engineer, and construct the new network. In addition, Nsight will have financial, billing, and operational control over the FTTP network after the project is completed. Nsight will also make a connection to the new network, provide internet backhaul, and complete installs and disconnects at customer premises. See Exhibit 1.

This Partnership is supported by the Village of Casco Board. Board members passed a Resolution (3-2021) supporting this FY2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant Application. The Resolution states that the Village “has insufficient access to Broadband Internet services” and that “the necessary infrastructure has not been installed and is not scheduled for near-term installation to provide high-speed internet service”. They also believe that the new FTTP network will provide a reliable internet service in the Village of Casco”. See Exhibit 2.

The Village is partnering with Nsight because the company has more than 110 years of experience providing communities and local businesses with leading technology, flexible communication solutions and extraordinary customer care. Nsight’s continued growth is spurred by ever-evolving consumer demands and their desire to partner with a trusted, local telecommunications provider. Meeting the needs of its customers in a personalized manner is the company’s top priority and has been at the heart of the organization since its humble beginning in 1910. The beginnings of the partnership between the Village and Nsight started in September 2021 when Village President Kelly Pinchart and Nsight VP of Innovative Operations Bob Webb signed a memorandum of understanding. The two parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to partner for this FTTP grant application. See Exhibit 1 & 10.

- C. Existing broadband service. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve.

The Village is a rural community located in Kewaunee County which has insufficient access to Broadband Internet services. Contrary to what the state broadband maps show, the Village of Casco is underserved. Fixed wireless broadband service is unreliable at most locations in the Village because of the very high density of trees. Moreover, speeds advertised by the landline carrier are not available to many locations. In particular, upload speeds are less than 3 Mbps throughout one-third of the community. As the Village of Casco Board stated in their Resolution, “the necessary infrastructure has not been installed and is not scheduled for near term installation to provide high-speed internet service” See Exhibit 2.

#### **Landline Service Providers:**

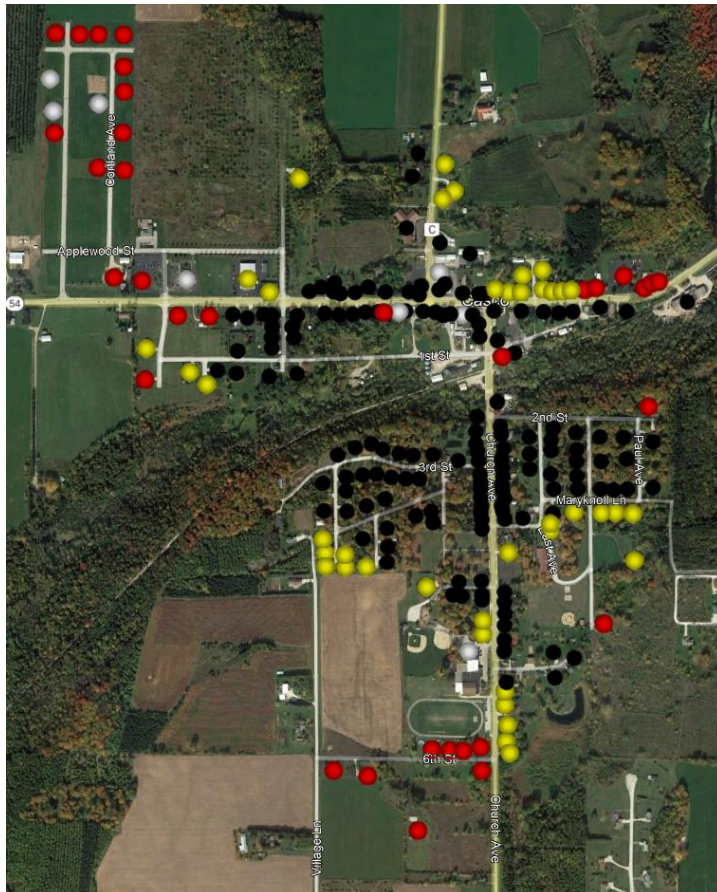
**CenturyLink.** According to the Wisconsin Broadband Map, CenturyLink provides VDSL Wireline broadband internet service in the Village of Casco and advertises download speeds ranging from 10Mbps to 80Mbps depending on where a household or business is located in the village.

Several sources dispute the Wisconsin Broadband Map classification of the entire project area as being 'served'.

According to the Village's Resolution, speeds advertised by the landline carrier are not available to many locations. In particular, upload speeds are less than 3 Mbps throughout one-third of the community.

Technology Services, LLC completed a speed test on the CenturyLink website to determine download and upload speeds available at 232 locations served by CenturyLink in the Village. The test was completed in November 2021. They found that 75 of the 232 locations tested have upload speeds of 1.5Mbps or lower. In addition, the speed test showed that 30 of these 75 locations had download speeds ranging from 3Mbps up to 20Mbps. These results demonstrate that at least one-third of the project area is eligible for FY2022 grant funding. The eligible locations are shown in the project area map below.

Map of the Village of Casco project area showing underserved addresses with wireline internet service speeds.



Key:

Red: Customers with download speed less than 25Mbps and upload speed less than 3Mbps.

Yellow: Customer with download speed above 30Mbps but upload speed less than 3Mbps.

Black dots: Other residential and business locations in the Village.

Several letters of support confirm these survey results. For instance, Attorney Steven Richards of Everson and Richards, LLP works from home where download and upload speeds vary from poor to very poor. “As of this writing my download speed is 20.6Mbps and upload speed is 1.82Mbps.” According to Richards, “This greatly hampers my work, as there are times when I cannot participate in online videoconferences, which are essential to my work. There are no other viable options that will work, as I have explored them all.” He concludes that “While the broadband map reflects we have broadband, we lag greatly behind our neighboring communities.” See Exhibit 3.

Vanessa Vanderbloemen echoes this sentiment. A Village resident, she has been working from home since the pandemic started. Her current internet speeds from CenturyLink are 10Mbps download speed and 1Mbps upload. She adds that every day she experiences the lack of internet availability. Even joining basic video calls causes the rest of the users in her house to not be able to use the internet. See Exhibit 4.

Another Village resident, Renee Lemens, references her agreement with CenturyLink which states that carrier provides “up to 25Mbps” for her internet speed, but many times, she is “not getting anywhere near that speed”. She adds that her neighbors are having the same issues. In her view, this should not be happening when people in Luxemburg only 6 miles from her house are getting up to 1,000Mbps. See exhibit 5.

Hans Shin is also a resident in Casco and lives at 415 Main Street. He states that he was utterly surprised to learn that the broadband maps show that Casco as being served. “I dispute that based on my first-hand experience with intermittent traffic and slow up- and download speeds. The ISP I currently contract with advertise speeds that I have rarely experienced yet still am contracted to pay for.” See Exhibit 15.

Similarly, Michele Delebreau who lives at 613 Church Street in the Village states that “Our current internet is from CenturyLink and we only have 20Mbps download and 1.5Mbps upload”. She adds that simple tasks including checking emails, paying bills or reading the newspaper takes forever even though she’s the only person living in the house. See Exhibit 16.

#### **Fixed Wireless Broadband Service Providers:**

**Door County Broadband.** According to the Wisconsin Broadband Map, fixed wireless broadband service provider Door County Broadband advertises speeds of 25 Mbps download and upload speed of 6Mbps in the Village.

**Mercury Network Corporation:** According to the Wisconsin Broadband Map, fixed wireless broadband service provider Mercury Network Corporation advertises speeds of 75 Mbps download and upload speed of 25 Mbps in the Village.

**AT&T Wisconsin:** According to the Wisconsin Broadband Map, fixed wireless broadband service provider AT&T advertises speeds of 10 Mbps download and upload speed of 1 Mbps in the Village.

Anecdotal evidence demonstrates that fixed wireless broadband speeds advertised by these providers are not in fact available in the Village of Casco. Residents confirm that fixed wireless is available but argue that the dense trees running through the center of the Village block the line-of-sight signal from reaching their homes. Thus, both Renee Lemens and Brandon Deprey state that fixed wireless is available, but they live in homes with many very large trees, and a community that includes many large trees that block access. According to Ms. Lemens, this lack of access “has caused issues with required video calls and my day-to-day duties.” See Exhibit 5. According to Mr. Deprey, the fixed wireless provider who stopped by his house to test for line of sight to the fixed wireless tower said that “we would have to take them (the trees) down to simply get internet.” See Exhibit 6.

Likewise, Vanessa Vanderbloemen points out in her letter of support, “We have looked at getting faster fixed wireless internet but the trees surrounding our yard are too big and the company said we are unable to get internet access here because of it.” She continues, “I was shocked to hear that the Village of Casco is seen as served when it comes to adequate broadband. All my neighbors complain about our slow speeds. According to the FCC we don’t even have enough speed to be considered broadband.” See Exhibit 4.

Ashley Ploor who recently moved to 127 Cortland Ave in the Village from Green Bay has had a very frustrating experience. She moved to be closer to her husband’s work. She works from home making internet a critical service. Nevertheless, it took two months for her house to be connected to the local internet service provider’s network. Once she got internet set up the service was extremely unreliable. Her modem would kick out every four days resulting in her having to call and spend at least an hour on the phone to get the issue resolved to do her job. The issues with internet continue to this day with fluctuating service and severely lacking speeds and she is still having to reset the equipment every other day. She has reached out to every other fixed Internet provider who services the area and advertises reliable service and all have come out only to tell her they are unable to get a strong signal due to the trees around the neighborhood. See exhibit 7.

Since fixed wireless broadband internet is not available in the Village, residents are left with just one provider. This has created a situation in which the Village community does not have access to reliable competitive broadband service. As Kevin Lampe states in his support letter, “it is pretty unbelievable to consider the Village of Casco served when it comes to adequate broadband considering we only have one option to choose from and it has been made clear over the years that they don't prioritize the customers in our village because there is no need to improve as we can't take our business elsewhere”. See Exhibit 8.

Mobile wireless service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed project.

- i. Cellcom: Mobile Access – No speeds reported
- ii. Verizon Wireless: Mobile Access – No speeds reported
- iii. Sprint: Mobile Access – No speeds reported.
- iv. AT&T Mobility: Mobile Access – No speeds reported
- v. U.S. Cellular: Mobile Access – No speeds reported



- D. Project impact.** A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

**The Village of Casco is in Kewaunee County in northeast Wisconsin. The project area includes the entire Village community. As the Village of Casco Resolution states, the community has insufficient access to broadband internet services. If this application is approved, Nsight will deploy a scalable last mile FTTP service that will pass all 232 locations in the Village. Nsight will provide fiber based broadband internet service with download speeds between 250Mbps and 1Gbps per subscriber and upload speeds between 20Mbps and 100Mbps to all homes and businesses that sign up for service in the Village.**

**Geographic area: Absolute population numbers in underserved census blocks that will be either partially or completely served based on GIS maps.**

<b>Housing Units: Defined as house, apartment, condo etc that is or can be lived in. (occupied + vacant units)</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Total population:</b>	<b>600</b>

**Likely users that Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices believe will have access to the new service based on GIS maps for the fiber to the premise service included in the project.**

<b>Number of likely users: Residential customers.</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>Number of likely users: Business and community anchor institutions.</b>	<b>25</b>

**The new FTTP network will pass 232 locations and Nsight expects to connect (drops and CPE) 75 locations within 2 years of grant award.**

**Upon lighting of the new service, Nsight will provide download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps per subscriber to every resident and business location in the Village.**

**Nsight will offer these customers similar pricing as in its other fiber markets. Prices are subject to change but have remained very consistent while speeds have increased for the last decade.**

#### **Standard Internet Packages**

**Current monthly internet pricing is as follows.**

**Residential:**

- 250/20 Mbps: \$39.95/month initial 12 months; \$49.95 thereafter
- 500/50 Mbps: \$59.95/month initial 12 months; \$69.95 thereafter
- 1000/100 Mbps: \$99.95/month initial 12 months; \$109.95 thereafter

Note: An additional \$7.95/month gateway fee is also charged. Standard installation cost is \$19.95 with a 12-month contract; \$110.00 without a contract.

Business:

- 250/20 Mbps: \$54.95/month initial 12 months; \$64.95 thereafter
- 500/50 Mbps: \$104.95/month initial 12 months; \$114.95 thereafter
- 1000/100 Mbps: \$199.95/month initial 12 months; \$209.95 thereafter

Note: An additional \$7.95/month gateway fee is also charged. Standard installation cost is \$19.95 with a 12-month contract; \$110.00 without a contract.

Nsight is participating in the following low-income access programs and will take steps to support adoption of broadband internet service among low-income groups in the new service area.

Low Income program:	Available in the new service area?
Nsight is an eligible telecommunications carrier: Therefore, the proposed broadband service will be available to Lifeline customers.	YES
Nsight is participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program which replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.	YES
Nsight participates in Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge.	YES

- E. **Scalability.** A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application: **The Village of Casco FTTP project is scalable. As stated earlier, initial investment will include XGS-PON services passing 232 locations with drops to 75. Nsight will place enough fiber facilities into the Village to extend fiber drops off the feeder cables to all locations in future. In addition, Nsight's network will accommodate expansion of the Village and support fiber based broadband solutions in the future for other areas near this project.**

- a. The number of users.

**The FTTP broadband network will provide service to at least 75 locations within 24 months of grant award date. The FTTP project is expected to achieve 56% take rate by the end of year 4 so that 130 premises will be connected to the service. Partners expect that all 232 households and businesses along the route of the new network will eventually connect to the new network.**

- b. The number of network nodes.

**The project budget includes customer premise equipment for 75 locations. Nsight and the Village will purchase additional CPE for the remaining locations as those are connected. The two partners will also purchase additional passive optical network splitters and splitter cabinets as the network grows.**

- c. The number of services provided.

**Services are listed in Project Impact above. Nsight continually reviews its service packages and will make changes as needed based on local market conditions.**

- d. The geographic area served by the project.

**The new FTTP network will pass 232 premises as illustrated in the project map. Costs for drops and customer premise equipment connecting 75 locations to the new network are included in the budget for this project. Partners commit to installing fiber service drops to the other 157 customer locations along the FTTP route should they sign up for broadband service.**

**F. Economic development.** A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business.

**The Village of Casco FTTP project will serve 25 businesses and have a significant economic impact. As Village board members stated in their Resolution supporting the project, “the new fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network will provide a reliable Internet service in the Village of Casco thereby promoting job growth, expanding the property tax base and improving the overall economic vitality of the municipality”. See Exhibit 2.**

**Likewise, Attorney Steven Richards states, “fiber optic internet means so much to my community and me. It will allow us to compete with other communities and will provide our community to continue to grow”. See Exhibit 3.**

**Vanessa Vanderbloemen agrees, stating that the “fiber optic internet to the home in the Village of Casco would promote job and economic growth in our community, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic situation here”. See Exhibit 4.**

**Similarly, Renee Lemens believes that fiber optic internet will “expand our property tax base.” She continues, “So many people would be positively impacted by simply giving us access to the same high speeds surrounding areas are already receiving”. See Exhibit 5.**

Ashley Ploor agrees arguing that fiber optic Internet to the village will help promote growth and allow the community to expand and improve the overall economic situation. She concludes “Fiber to the homes in the Village will be a life changer for myself and the members of this community”. See Exhibit 7.

- G. **Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.** A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

**The proposed project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to provide broadband service in areas adjacent to the proposed project area.**

V. Other information supporting the application. (3.2.5)

- A. A description of applicant’s history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere.

**The Village of Casco is dedicated to bringing high speed internet to every home in the community. As a community that has been around for a long time, they are served by end-of-life copper facilities, yet most of the internet infrastructure is becoming data driven and the village acknowledges that they need to make an investment for the future. With community growth plans on the horizon, the village is excited to work with outside partners to bring the best internet solution to ALL residents within the village boundaries.**

**The Village of Casco determined that a major factor driving economic development in neighboring communities such as the Village of Luxemburg was a reliable high speed internet connection. They concluded that the lack of high-speed internet access in the Village of Casco was a major constraint to economic growth in their community. The Village Board needed someone with the knowledge and expertise to come up with a solution to this lack of internet access. Board members discussed better internet options with Technology Services, LLC. Since Technology Services had already helped the Village of Luxemburg get fiber internet from Nsight to every address in the Village, the Village of Casco Board decided to work with Technology Services to bring a similar system to the Village of Casco.**

**As a premier communications provider, Nsight is proud of its heritage, Wisconsin-based ownership, and reputation as an active corporate citizen. Brown County CLEC and Nsighttel Wireless, LLC (“Cellcom”) are subsidiaries of the Holding Company, Northeast Communications of Wisconsin (NECW). The company has provided essential local telephone service since 1910. Today, the Nsight family of companies includes subsidiaries Nsight Telservices, Cellcom, Nsight**

**Tower and Glas. Nsight employs more than 740 people in the state, including technical staff that builds and maintains its network and local customer service teams to support its customers.**

**Nsight Telservices operates as a facilities-based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) offering customized enterprise solutions including services scalable to 200 Gbps. With nearly 4,000 route miles of fiber optic cable and connections to major metropolitan areas, the company provides resilient and redundant fiber-based data and voice services to some of the largest enterprises in Wisconsin.**

**Under the Nsight Telservices and Cellcom brands, the company offers residential internet and voice services in the Shawano, Pulaski, Abrams, Niagara, Florence, Newton, Oconto, Oconto Falls, and Two Rivers and Luxemburg communities. The company operates fiber distribution networks in seven distinct markets and is the rural Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) in 15 telephone exchange markets. The company's monthly churn rate for internet services averages less than .65 percent, indicating customer satisfaction. Overall market penetration for internet service is 43 percent. The most recent fiber expansion was a partnership with the Village of Luxemburg. In March of 2021, the Village of Luxemburg chose Cellcom to bring fiber to residents and businesses in the community, citing the company's responsiveness and willingness to get the project underway so the community could begin reaping the benefits over the next two years. Cellcom delivered on its promise with installations starting in November of 2021. The public-private partnership will bring fiber internet with speeds up to a gigabit to nearly 1,200 addresses by the end of 2022.**

**Nsight regularly invests in its existing network with funds budgeted annually to upgrade customers in established territories. The company always installs fiber in new construction areas within existing territories (i.e. new subdivisions) and takes a fiber-first approach for repairs and maintenance of its existing network, seeking to upgrade copper infrastructure to fiber whenever it is feasible. Additionally, if scenarios do not allow for fiber installation immediately, Nsight installs conduit to prepare for fiber in the future.**

**Nsight has a proven track record of operating, maintaining and continually investing in its network. Key organizational capabilities and network highlights include:**

- **Middle-mile interconnection to strategic cities in the region**
- **Major metro-fiber routes with lateral buildouts**
- **Optical network supports 38 Tbps of traffic per span, with up to 400 Gbps per channel**
- **Geo-diverse core and aggregation routers to provide the highest level of network resiliency and uninterrupted service**
- **Local control of splicing equipment**
- **Network Management Center (NMC) with access to technical staff and engineers 24/7**

**Nsight is committed to growing its business in a thoughtful, forward-thinking and, above all, caring way. Guided by the belief that the business must give back to the communities it is privileged to serve, Nsight is actively involved in and supports organizations that embody the company's values and extend our mission. For more details see <https://www.naight.com/community>.**

**Subsidiaries of NECW, including Brown County CLEC, have completed five PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant projects.**

				Type of Broadband Technology Used	Facility Route built	Number of customers
1	Round	PSC Filing #	Project Description			
2	FY2018 II	336475	Oconto Falls Business Park Fiber	Last Mile Fiber Build	2.2 Miles	33
3	FY2018 II	336445	Sheboygan County Highway O Fiber	Middle Mile Fiber	7.5 Miles	6
4	FY2019	346426	Fiber to Washington Island	Middle Mile Fiber	4.4 Miles	N/A. Submarine Cable
5	FY2019	346357	Champion Fixed Wireless	CBRS Fixed Wireless	CBRS on one tower	26
6	FY2019	346317	Calumet County Regional Fiber Build	Middle Mile Fiber	16 Miles	6

**Nsight is currently working on three additional PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant projects.**

Nsight FY2020 Awards.									
Round	PSC Filing #	Applicant	Project Description	Grant Amount Requested	% of total Project Cost	Nsight Matching Funds	Partners' Matching Funds	Total Cost of Project	PSCW Funded, Y/N.
FY2020	380943	Nsight	#1 Egg Harbor Public Broadband Network. WiFi for Village of Egg Harbor.	\$ 48,960.00	60%	\$ 17,640.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 81,600.00	Ongoing
Nsight FY2021 Award									
FY2021	400624	Nsight	#1 Fiber to Washington Island Phase II	\$ 297,603.00	40%	\$ 181,500.00	\$ 264,904.00	\$ 744,007.00	Ongoing
FY2022 ARPA Award									
FY2022	416832	Town of Liberty Grove	Northport FTTH Pilot Project	\$ 318,500.00	50%	\$ 73,500.00	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 637,000.00	Ongoing

B. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.  
**This project will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure since there is currently no other FTTN service serving the entire Village of Casco.**

C. A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.  
This may include information such as the number of years the company has been in operation, documentation of successful completion of similar infrastructure projects, evidence that sufficient funds are available to cover project expenditure and match, customer turn-over rates, and credit rating.

**The Village of Casco will be acquiring funds through pre-arrange government loans made available through the Bank of Luxemburg in Luxemburg, WI. The Village of Casco has good credit history with the Bank of Luxemburg as they have funded multiple street construction projects, a new fire truck, and various sewer repair projects.**

**Brown County CLEC and Nsighttel Wireless, LLC (“Cellcom”) are subsidiaries of the Holding Company, Northeast Communications of Wisconsin (NECW).**

**NECW was founded in 1910 and has grown to be a large regional wireless and wireline communications provider based in Wisconsin with over \$300 million in assets with more than enough funds to complete the project.**

- D. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access education and health care service from home,

**Village of Casco board members pledged matching funds to the FTTP project partly because they believe that the lack of internet service limits the citizens and visitors from accessing critical technology for education, communication, medical devices, government services and other factors affecting the quality of life. They believe that the new service will address these needs and improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality. See Exhibit 2.**

**Village of Casco Hans Shin works for a regional health care system based in Green Bay. He has had to experience the hardship of working remotely with slow and pixelated web-ex and video conferencing during the pandemic-induced new normal. He works side-by-side with clinicians who require rapid and accurate feedback in their daily work. A slow network hampers his ability to meet their needs. He is confident that this upgrade will assure that he will succeed in the future. See Exhibit 15.**

- E. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above.

- **The Village of Casco Board contracted with Technology Services, LLC, a technology consultant, to advise the Village, work with internet service provider Nsight, and assist with application for funds to deploy a FTTP service in the Village.**
- **The Village signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nsight detailing the terms of business relations between the two partners during the proposed FTTP project.**
- **The Village passed a Resolution in support of this project and pledging \$125,000 towards construction of the new network.**
- **If awarded, the Village will administer the FY2022 broadband expansion grant.**

- F. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

- **Exhibit 3: Letter of Support from Everson & Richards, LLP.**
- **Exhibit 4: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident Vanessa Vanderbloemen.**
- **Exhibit 5: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident Renee Lemens.**
- **Exhibit 6: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident, Brandon Deprey.**
- **Exhibit 7: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident, Ashley Ploor.**
- **Exhibit 8: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident, Kevin Lampe.**
- **Exhibit 9: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Business Owner, Chris Jacobs.**



- **Exhibit 10: Letter of Support from Nsight CEO, Brighid Riordan.**
- **Exhibit 11: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident Chris Jacobs.**
- **Exhibit 12: Letter of Support from Joel Kitchens, State Representative, 1st Assembly District.**
- **Exhibit 13: Letter of Support from State Senator André Jacque.**
- **Exhibit 14: Letter of Support from Congressman Mike Gallagher.**
- **Exhibit 15: Letter of Support from Hans Shin, Resident, Village of Casco.**
- **Exhibit 16: Letter of Support from Michele Delebreau, Resident, Village of Casco.**

**Exhibits:**

**1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Village of Casco and Nsighttel Wireless, LLC. (d/b/a Cellcom).**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF CASCO  
AND NSIGHTTEL WIRELESS, LLC. (d/b/a Cellcom)**

The Village of Casco ("Village") agrees to partner with Nsighttel Wireless, LLC ("Cellcom") for a fiber-to-the-home ("FTTH") grant proposal that the Village is considering submitting to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin ("PSC") under the Broadband Expansion Grant Program for the FY2022 grant cycle.

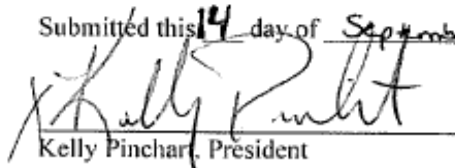
The Village is considering applying for an FY2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy a scalable FTTH service that will provide fiber based broadband internet service with download/upload speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber to every resident and business location in the Village.

The Village is considering applying for a grant in the amount of approximately \$265,265 from the PSCW. In addition, the Village pledges \$125,000 to this project if the PSC awards the Village a grant. If awarded a grant, the Village would pay all fiber project vendor and contractor invoices submitted to the Village by Cellcom for this project. The maximum amount the Village would pay for these invoices is equal to the amount of the grant plus \$125,000 in the aggregate. Both parties acknowledge that the payment by the Village is not for the entire cost of the project and represents only a portion of the cost. The parties would attempt to have the Village only pay invoices for labor and non-physical assets such that the Village does not take possession or ownership of any assets or components of the project. However, should the Village take possession or ownership of any assets, the Village agrees to sell those assets to Cellcom in the aggregate for \$1.00. If necessary, the Village and Cellcom will sign an Asset Purchase Agreement transferring any assets or components of the project to Cellcom upon project completion.

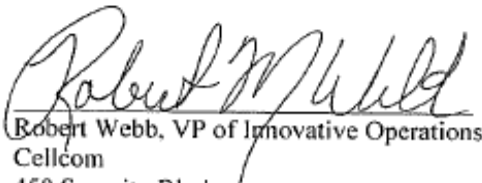
The Village and Cellcom agree that, should the PSC award the Village a grant, Cellcom will have financial, billing, and operational control over the FTTH network after the project is completed, and, if necessary, an Asset Purchase Agreement is signed. Cellcom will design, engineer and construct the new network. Cellcom may, at its sole discretion, hire contractors to design and build the FTTH network and will own and operate it after the project is completed. Cellcom will make a connection to the new FTTH network, provide internet backhaul, complete installs and disconnects at customer premises, handle billing, and maintain the new network. Should the PSC award the Village a grant, it is estimated that Cellcom will contribute \$307,802 to the project.

Cellcom supports the partnership and, if the Village applies for a grant, actively endorses the Village of Casco's application for the purpose of building the proposed fiber network.

Submitted this 14 day of September, 2021



Kelly Pinchart, President  
Village of Casco  
311 Church Ave.  
Casco, WI 54205



Robert Webb, VP of Innovative Operations  
Cellcom  
450 Security Blvd  
Green Bay, WI 54313

**Exhibit 2. Village of Casco Resolution supporting the FTTP project with Financial Pledge.**

RESOLUTION 3-2021

Resolution Supporting PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant Application For Fiscal Year 2022

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Casco, is a rural community located in Kewaunee County which has insufficient access to Broadband Internet services. Contrary to what the state broadband maps show, the Village of Casco is unserved. Fixed wireless broadband service is slow and unreliable at most locations in the village because of the very high density of trees. Moreover, speeds advertised by the landline carrier are not available to many locations. In particular, upload speeds are less than 3 Mbps throughout one-third of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the necessary infrastructure has not been installed and is not scheduled for near-term installation to provide high-speed Internet service; and

**WHEREAS**, this lack of Internet service limits the citizens and visitors from accessing critical technology for education, communication, medical devices, government services and other factors affecting quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the new fiber-to-the-home network will provide a reliable Internet service in the Village of Casco thereby promoting job growth, expanding the property tax base and improving the overall economic vitality of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, if this grant is awarded, Nsight will partner with the Village of Casco in a project to deploy a scalable last mile fiber to the home (FTTH) service that will pass all 252 locations in the Village. Nsight will provide fiber based broadband internet service with download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber to all homes and businesses that sign up for service in the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, the two partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, outlining the terms of this partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village has received American Rescue Plan Act funds to be used on infrastructure such as broadband.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, the Village Board supports Village application for an FY2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant in partnership with Nsight for the installation of fiber to all homes in the Village of Casco and pledges \$125,000.00 towards the cost of the new FTTH network.



Kelly Pinchart – Village President

**Exhibit 3: Letter of Support from Everson & Richards, LLP.**

**EVERSON & RICHARDS, LLP.**

**Attorneys At Law**

STEVEN G. RICHARDS  
KIRK W. EVERSON

TEL 920-837-2653  
FAX 920-837-2924  
127 MAIN STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 8  
CASCO, WISCONSIN 54205

January 30, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Re: Village of Casco Internet Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support fiber to home in the Village of Casco, Wisconsin. I do work from home and the speeds vary from poor to very poor. As of this writing my download speed is 20.6 mbps and upload speed is 1.82 mbps. This greatly hampers my work, as there are times when I cannot participate in on-line videoconferences, which are essential to my work. There are no other viable options that will work, as I have explored all others.

While the broadband map reflects we have broadband, we lag greatly behind in our neighboring communities.

Please understand that fiber optic Internet means so much to my community and me. It will allow us to compete with other communities and will provide our community to continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Law Offices of  
EVERSON & RICHARDS, LLP



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Steven G. Richards

**Exhibit 4: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident Vanessa Vanderbloemen.**

January 26, 2022

Vanessa Vanderbloemen  
131 Braeburn Ave  
Casco, Wisconsin 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

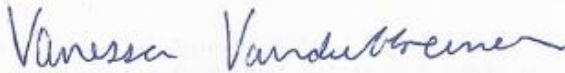
I am a resident of the Village of Casco and I have been working from home since the pandemic started. Every day I experience the lack of internet availability in our community. Even joining basic video calls causes the rest of the users in my house to not be able to use the internet, and my calls are always delayed. Our current internet is from CenturyLink and we have 10 mbps download and 1.0 mbps upload.

We have looked at getting faster fixed wireless internet but the trees surrounding our yard are too big and the company said we are unable to get internet access here because of it.

I was shocked to hear that the Village of Casco is seen as served when it comes to adequate broadband. All my neighbors complain about our slow speeds. According to the FCC we don't even have enough speed to be considered broadband.

Fiber optic internet to the home in the Village of Casco would promote job and economic growth in our community, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic situation here.

Regards,



Vanessa Vanderbloemen

**Exhibit 5: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident Renee Lemens.**

Renee Lemens  
320 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Casco, WI 54205

January 27, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of the Village of Casco, I would like to express my support for adding fiber optic internet to the village. Our current internet provider is CenturyLink whose agreement states that it provides "up to 25 mbps" for my internet speed, but many times, I am not getting anywhere near that speed. When talking with my neighbors, I know they are having the same issues.

In looking at the broadband maps, it shows that Casco has broadband, but I can attest that our internet is not even close to that of other communities in the area. Fixed wireless is available, but I live in a home with many very large trees, and a community that includes many large trees, that block access.

During the epidemic and sometimes even now due to quarantine restrictions, I need to work from home, and my poor internet speed has caused issues with required video calls and my day-to-day duties. My husband and sons have daily issues with streaming anything on TV, which is not as urgent as my work needs, but definitely should not be happening when people in Luxemburg only 6 miles from my home are getting up to 1,000 mbps.

I believe that fiber optic internet will help our village grow and expand our property tax base. So many people would be positively impacted by simply giving us access to the same high speeds surrounding areas are already receiving.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Renee Lemens

**Exhibit 6: Letter of Support from Village of Casco resident, Brandon Deprey.**

01/30/2022

Brandon Deprey  
127 Braeburn Ave  
Casco, WI 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Public Service Commission:

I am a resident of the Village of Casco and since that pandemic started every day I experience the lack of internet availability in our community on a daily basis. Even joining basic video calls causes the rest of the users in my house to not be able to use the internet.

We have looked at getting the faster fixed wireless internet but the trees in our yard are too big and the company said we would have to take them down to simply get internet.

I was shocked to hear that the Village of Casco is seen as served when it comes to adequate broadband. All my neighbors complain about our slow speeds. According to the FCC we don't even have speeds enough to be considered broadband

Fiber to the home in the Village of Casco would promote job and economic growth in our community. In addition, this will allow us to have reliable internet service and having enough speed for now and into the future.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Deprey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brandon Deprey



## **Exhibit 7: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident, Ashley Ploor.**

February 2, 2022

Ashley Ploor  
127 Cortland Ave  
Casco, WI 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Public Service Commission:

We just moved to the Village of Casco in November. I work from home and have since the pandemic started. We previously lived in Green Bay but wanted to move closer to my husband's work since I work from home and no longer need to drive in to work. I never would have imagined that getting decent internet installed would be the most stressful and frustrating part of our move. We moved on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving with my brother's wedding that weekend all with a one-year-old and still that was less of a struggle than getting internet. Since I work from home internet is vital, I cannot do my job without it. When working with the only internet service provider I could find that could service our home I was met with even further frustration. We were without internet for two months. During that time, I had to use the hotspot on my phone and often drive elsewhere to work. I was hopeful that once we got the initial set-up issues resolved with the internet provider my struggles would be relieved. I was sadly very wrong. Once we got internet set up (the highest and only speed they could provide) the service was extremely unreliable. The modem would kick out every four days resulting in me having to call and spend at least an hour on the phone to get the issue resolved to do my job. The issues with internet continue to this day with fluctuating service, and severely lacking speeds (I cannot be on video calls because of the upload speed), and I am still having to reset the equipment every other day. I have reached out to every other fixed internet provider who services the area or areas around us that advertise reliable service for rural Wisconsin, and all have come out only to tell me they are unable to get a strong signal due to the trees around the neighborhood. We are four minutes from a larger town with many businesses, schools, etc. who have reliable internet yet those of us in the Village of Casco who can get service (some cannot at all) struggle daily. There is a cell tower in our neighborhood, yet we cannot get reliable internet. This is a great area, and we love the community we are now a part of, but Casco will not be able to grow and improve without access to reliable internet. We have four other new houses going up around us and I'm sure their residents will all have the same complaint and struggles as myself. Fiber Optic internet to the Village of Casco will help promote so much growth and allow the community to expand and improve the overall economic situation. Fiber to the homes in the Village of Casco will be a life changer for myself and the members of this community

Thank you for your time.

## Exhibit 8: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident, Kevin Lampe.

February 1, 2022

Kevin Lampe  
507 Maple Street  
Casco, WI 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Public Service Commission:

I am a resident of Casco and since the onset of Covid my wife has been working part to full time out of a home office. We were forced to upgrade to mesh internet in our home just to get consistent enough speed for her to make video calls. Speeds fluctuate so much it is difficult to have a professional environment for her to work in. Speed tests in our house so our speed average around 28mbps download and 1mbps upload. This means anything that needs to be uploaded we generally have to bring our laptop to a location with higher speeds.

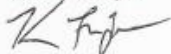
We have looked into getting the faster fixed wireless internet but the trees surrounding our property make it unlikely we could get a good signal. I was also told that they couldn't really offer speeds in our area much better than what we currently have.

It is pretty unbelievable to consider the Village of Casco served when it comes to adequate broadband considering we only have one option to choose from and it has been made clear over the years they don't prioritize the customers in our village because there is no need to improve as we can't take our business elsewhere. It has been a constant complaint and topic of discussion among our neighborhood even to the point that there are certain places within our town that at sometimes would brag about getting double the speed we could on our block. At the time, we could only get 15mbps and this was less than 5 years ago. From what I researched the FCC would say that our speeds are too slow to even be considered broadband.

Fiber to the home in the village of Casco would promote job and economic growth for our community.

Regards,

Kevin Lampe



**Exhibit 9: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Business owner Chris Jacobs.**

Village Kitchen  
101 Old Orchard Ave  
Casco, WI 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am a resident of the Village of Casco and I have owned a business here for many years. Every day I experience the lack of internet availability in our community. I am unable to provide Wi-Fi access to my customers because the internet speed is just too slow. Our current internet is from CenturyLink and we have 10 mbps download and 1.0 mbps upload.

We have looked at getting faster fixed wireless internet but the trees surrounding our yard are too big and the company said we are unable to get internet access here because of it.

I was shocked to hear that the Village of Casco is seen as served when it comes to adequate broadband. All my neighbors and other businesses in the Village complain about slow internet speeds. According to the FCC we don't even have enough speed to be considered broadband.

Fiber optic internet to the home and businesses in the Village of Casco would promote job and economic growth in our community, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic situation here.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Jacobs / Village Kitchen Owner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Chris Jacobs  
Owner – Village Kitchen

**Exhibit 10: Letter of Support from Brigid Riordan, CEO, Nsight.**



Steffany Powell Coker  
Secretary to the Commission  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Powell Coker,

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Nsight actively supports the Village of Casco ("The Village") application for an FY2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant to partner with Nsight and deploy a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) broadband network service to 232 households and businesses in The Village.

Nsight has 112 years of experience providing rural communities and local businesses with leading technology, flexible communication solutions and extraordinary customer care. Nsight's continued growth is spurred by ever-evolving consumer demands and their desire to partner with a trusted, local telecommunications provider. Meeting the needs of its customers in a personalized manner is the company's top priority and has been at the heart of the organization since its humble beginning in 1910. Our customers describe Nsight with terms such as 'high-quality work,' 'honest,' 'transparent,' 'trustworthy' and 'incredibly professional.'

The company's fixed communication group consists of both rural local exchange carrier (LEC) and fixed enterprise operations. Its rural LEC territory covers approximately 15 telephone exchanges in northeast and east central Wisconsin. Nsight's rural LEC operation provides high-speed internet, in addition to traditional fixed telephone services and television. Nsight also operates and maintains residential FTTP networks in various portions of its network footprint. As a leading communications provider in the state of Wisconsin, Nsight has a proven track record of operating, maintaining and continually investing in its network. Key organizational capabilities and network highlights include approximately 3,924 route miles of fiber-based network, middle-mile interconnection to strategic cities in the region, and geo-diverse core and aggregation routers to provide the highest level of network resiliency and uninterrupted service.

Nsight is confident that it can complete the Village of Casco FTTP project. Nsight completed five PSCW grant funded projects and is working to complete three additional grant-funded projects. As with these projects, Nsight will design, engineer, and construct the new network. Nsight will hire contractors to design and build this last mile FTTP network and will operate it after the project is completed. Nsight will make a connection to the new FTTP network, provide internet backhaul, complete installs and disconnects at customer premises, handle billing, and maintain the new network.

Since our founding in 1910, 112 years ago on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Nsight has been rooted in rural service. It is both our pleasure and our mission to serve the communities in Rural Wisconsin. We know that individuals who choose the quality of life that is offered by small, close-knit communities still want access to the same technical amenities found in metropolitan areas. Therefore, Nsight supports the Village of Casco FY2022 grant application and pledges **\$307,802** in financial support for the proposed project contingent on the grant award and completion of the last-mile fiber build.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brigid Riordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Brigid Riordan, CEO

450 Security Blvd. P.O. Box 19079 Green Bay, WI 54307 P: 920.617.7000 F: 920-617-7018 [www.nsignal.com](http://www.nsignal.com)

Nsight Telservices • Cellcom • Glas



**Exhibit 11: Letter of Support from Village of Casco Resident Chris Jacobs.**

February 23, 2022

Chris Jacobs

133 Braeburn Ave

Casco, Wisconsin 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

4822 Madison Yards Way

Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

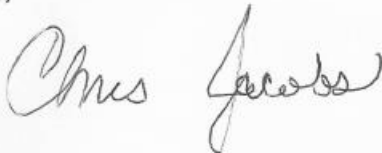
I am a resident of the Village of Casco and I have been working from home since the pandemic started. Every day I experience the lack of internet availability in our community. Even joining basic video calls causes the rest of the users in my house to not be able to use the internet, and my calls are always delayed. Our current internet is from CenturyLink and we have 10 mbps download and 1.0 mbps upload.

We have looked at getting faster fixed wireless internet but the trees surrounding our yard are too big and the company said we are unable to get internet access here because of it.

I was shocked to hear that the Village of Casco is seen as served when it comes to adequate broadband. All my neighbors complain about our slow speeds. According to the FCC we don't even have enough speed to be considered broadband.

Fiber optic internet to the home in the Village of Casco would promote job and economic growth in our community, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic situation here.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Jacobs". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Regards," text.

Chris Jacobs

## Exhibit 12: Letter of Support from Joel Kitchens, State Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District.



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# JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
Alyssa Kenney, State Broadband and Digital Equity Director  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Ms. Kenny,

Please accept this letter as my support for the application being submitted to your agency by the Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices LLC that seeks grant funding to construct a scalable fiber-to-the-premise pilot project that will service 245 locations.

The new network will deliver download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps.

The estimated cost of the project is \$698,000. Financial support pledged by the two partners will cover more than 60 percent of those costs. The grant would cover the remainder of that amount.

Rural residents and businesses need access to high speed internet to participate in the modern global economy, to pursue educational and professional development opportunities and to reach emergency services quickly. The recent pandemic has only reinforced the fact that access to a reliable, quality internet service is crucial.

The investment of broadband infrastructure for this unserved area of Kewaunee County would provide a critical tool and lifeline for its residents. Students currently lacking internet would have access to learning resources both at school and in homes. Business could reach new customers and have access to new resources to help generate a better profit and new jobs. This proposal would strengthen the whole county.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Kitchens".

State Rep. Joel Kitchens  
1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

**Exhibit 13: Letter of Support from State Senator André Jacque.**



**ANDRÉ JACQUE**

SENATE SENATOR • 1<sup>st</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

Phone: (608) 266-3312

Fax: (608) 262-3343

Sen.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

State Capitol - PO, Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Alyssa Kenney, State Broadband & Digital Equity Director  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
North Tower, 6th Floor  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way Madison, WI 53705

Dear Ms. Kenney:

I'm pleased to write you in support of an application by the Village of Casco, Kewaunee in partnership with Nsight Teleservices for a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant to construct a scalable fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) pilot project deployment passing 245 locations in the Village.

The new network will deliver download speeds between 250 Mbps and 1 Gbps per subscriber and upload speeds between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps. The estimated cost of the project is \$698,000. Financial support pledged by the two partners, the Village of Casco and Nsight, will cover over 60% of the cost, with the grant to help with the remainder.

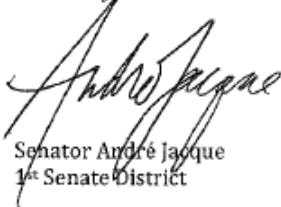
As the State Senator for the area, I believe this is the very type of project this program was designed to fund. Without significant support from the grant, it would be challenging to build this much-needed project. We are all aware of the critical need for faster internet service for both work demands and quality of life.

Those needs existed before challenges posed by COVID-19. We've since seen an unprecedented transition to virtual methods of communication for educational instruction, business interactions, and even social organization engagement that in many ways are here to stay. Many areas have particularly struggled in these adjustments as faster quality internet connections may at best be available at local municipal buildings such as a local library, if at all. I have contacted providers previously on behalf of area residents, several of whom organized petitions for expanded service. I see this proposal as a tremendous collaborative opportunity for success in moving beyond those previous pleas that fell on deaf ears.

Extending network connectivity is pivotal to fulfilling citizens' economic and private needs and has become an infrastructure necessity in the modern world for my constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for this proposed project.

Sincerely,



Senator André Jacque  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



**Exhibit 14: Letter of Support from Congressman Mike Gallagher.**

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 4, 2022

Ms. Alyssa Kenney  
State Broadband & Digital Equity Director  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
North Tower, 6th Floor  
Hills Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Director Kenney,

I write in support of the application of the Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices, LLC for funding through the fiscal year 2022 PSCW Broadband Expansion Grant from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

The Village of Casco, located in the heart of Kewaunee County, boasts a strong sense of community driven by its agricultural roots and small-town charm. However, with its proximity to the city of Green Bay and the shores of Lake Michigan, Casco's rural and sparsely populated community have limited access to broadband services. In addition, this area's rural location and small population make the region one of the more difficult and expensive places to implement broadband services.

With their small and rural population, the Village of Casco's greatest challenge is implementing medium to large scale infrastructure projects without help. That is why deploying broadband services is merely impossible without the use of grant assistance.

The project will offer fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) service to 245 underserved locations in the village. The new network will deliver much-improved download and upload speeds to these well-deserving residents. The partnership between the Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices, LLC offers a unique proposition for those needing broadband service in the area. With the help of this grant, the partnership between the Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices, LLC, will provide a great example of how public and private interests can work together to find solutions that match the needs of the people.

I request full and fair consideration of the Village of Casco and Nsight Telservices, LLC's application for funding. If you have additional questions regarding my support, contact Dane Lasecki in my office at [dane.lasecki@mail.house.gov](mailto:dane.lasecki@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request.

S/F,



Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

## Exhibit 15: Hans Shin, Resident, Village of Casco. Letter of Support.

415 Main Street  
Casco, WI 54205

10 March, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

Members of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

As a long-time resident in the village of Casco, I request consideration by the Commission to approve the request for the grant for broadband internet service to be installed in our village. My request for approval of the grant is anchored in the following reasons:

1. My family and I are dependent upon consistent, secure, and fast internet service
  - a. My son, with special needs, use the internet for his socialization and networking, as he cannot venture far and wide on his own
  - b. My wife, as a caregiver for the elderly, communicate frequently with her employer and the families of her clients. This crucial communication is reliant on consistent and fast service.
  - c. As a transplanted Wisconsinite, I have aging parents living overseas and we communicate 3-4 times a week via web-based services
  - d. Being one of the Military Veterans Museum and Education Center, Oshkosh, WI event coordinators, I rely on rapid, consistent, and reliable service to manage upcoming events and programming for this community-focused entity
  - e. We conduct much of our banking services via the internet, relying on fast, secure, and consistent service
2. Working for a regional health care system based in Green Bay, WI, I have had to experience the hardship of working remotely with slow and pixilated web-ex and video conferencing during this pandemic-induced "new normal."
  - a. I work side-by-side with clinicians who require rapid and accurate feedback in their daily work. A slow network hampers my ability to meet their needs.

I was utterly surprised to learn that the "broadband maps" show our village as being under broadband coverage. I dispute that based on my first-hand experience with intermittent traffic and slow up- and download speeds. The ISP I currently contract with advertise speeds that I have rarely experienced yet still am contracted to pay for. The Village of Casco is a vibrant and diverse community whose demographic is dependent upon reliable and fast internet in order to be part of the 21st century. An upgrade to true broadband will assure that my family and I, and our Village neighbors, will succeed in the present and in the future.

Kindest Regards,  
Hans Shin  
920/255 2658

3/2/2022

Michele Delebreau  
613 Church Ave  
Casco, WI 54205

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison Wisconsin 53705-9100

I am a resident of the Village of Casco. Every day I experience the lack of Internet availability in our community. Simple tasks of checking emails, paying bills or reading the newspaper takes forever and I'm the only one in the house using internet. Our current internet is from Centurylink and we only have 20mbps download and 1.5mbps upload.

We have looked into getting the faster fixed wireless internet but the trees in our yard and around are too big and the company said they'd need to be taken down.